



United States
Department Of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shasta-Trinity National Forests

Reply To: 2370

Date: September 30, 1992

Subject: Scenic Byway Proposal, Highway 299

To: Regional Forester

Enclosed is a Scenic Byway Proposal for State Highway 299 between Redding and Arcata. This route is approximately 140 miles of some of the most scenic area of northwestern California. The route traverses mountainous inclines and winds along the Trinity River which is a Congressionally designated Wild and Scenic River.

Approximately 70 miles of the route are within National Forest System Lands, 10 miles within a National Recreation Area, 17 miles of Bureau of Land Management lands, and the remaining 43 miles are privately owned.

The proposal has been prepared and is submitted jointly by the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. In addition, there is very strong local support for this proposal. This includes a joint effort by the local communities to band together to form the "Trinity Scenic Byway Association" to promote this beautiful area and bring in much needed tourist dollars. Additionally, they have been successful in promoting a California state bill that is essentially a companion bill to our effort. This bill initiated by State Assemblyman Stan Statham (ACR 126) places a state designation of "Trinity Scenic Byway" for this portion of State Highway 299. This legislation has passed both state senate and assembly. This designation in no way replaces a Forest Service designation since it merely designates a name for the route and places signs at both ends; there is no interpretation or signing of the route itself in the state action.

The combination of the state effort and our National Forest effort is locally seen as an outstanding example of the various governments working together to assist the local communities in this period when the spotted owl controversy has significantly depressed the local economy.

In addition to this Forest Service National Scenic Byway proposal the Forest Service has given a Rural Development Grant to the Trinity Scenic Byway Association to help them publish a brochure to publicize the area, including the Trinity Scenic Byway. Humboldt State University has also established a partnership with the Forest Service to write and develop an interpretive guide to the route.

The local folks are most anxious to get this designation made and are presently working toward a October 21, 1992, ceremony to celebrate the state designation. I believe that we too should be a part of that celebration, but only if we can





get the National Forest designation in place prior to that time. Unfortunately, this does not leave us the normal time to casually review the proposal. We will need to act and keep this moving if we are to succeed. I hope that you will join with myself, Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor Jim Davis, the District Rangers involved, and the local communities in swiftly moving this proposal forward to the Washington Office.

If you have any questions, please call this office or the Big Bar Ranger District office.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM V. CARPENTER
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

